

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
	:	
	:	
MELANIE LITTLE, L.P.N.	:	
License # 26NP06680300	:	FINAL ORDER
	:	OF DISCIPLINE
	:	
TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE	:	
STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Melanie Little ("Respondent") is a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in the State of New Jersey, and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

2. On or about September 12, 2014, a letter of inquiry was sent to Respondent on behalf of the Board, asking for information and documentation concerning an arrest on July 15, 2014 on charges of Attempting to Elude Police, and also asking for documentation of nursing continuing education completed in

the last three years. The letter was sent to Respondent's address of record by certified and regular mail. The receipt of the certified mailing was signed upon delivery. The regular mailing was not returned. No response was received.

3. Respondent indicated on her 2013 renewal application that she would not have completed all required nursing continuing education for the June 1, 2011 - May 31, 2013 licensing cycle by May 31, 2013.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's failure to respond to a Board inquiry constitutes a failure to cooperate with a Board investigation within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2 and 1.3, subjecting Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Respondent's failure to provide documentation of required nursing continuing education for the June 1, 2011 - May 31, 2013 licensing cycle, as well as her admission on the 2013 renewal application, is deemed to constitute a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, subjecting Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline seeking a suspension, and seven hundred and fifty dollar (\$750) civil penalty was entered on March 23, 2015. Copies were served upon Respondent via regular and certified mail. The Provisional Order was subject to

finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the thirtieth day following entry unless Respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated findings of fact and conclusions of law by setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent timely replied to the Provisional Order of Discipline. Respondent did not provide any reason or explanation for her failure to respond to the Board's initial letter of inquiry. Respondent indicated that she pled guilty to an amended charge of Obstructing the Administration of Law. The documentation she provided also indicated that Respondent had been charged with Driving Under the Influence (DUI) at the time of her July 15, 2014 arrest. Regarding continuing education, Respondent provided a sale summary showing that she paid for some continuing education courses and a "CE tracker" listing a multitude of "activities" that she completed in March 2014.

The Board's letter of inquiry included eight enumerated requests for information and documentation. Respondent's reply addressed two of those enumerated requests. Respondent failed to provide: police report with supporting statements, municipal court complaint, accusation, indictment, plea agreement,

disposition, sentencing, proof of completion of sentence (payment of fines, probation served), narrative of the conduct which led to her arrest, name and address of nursing employer, job title, dates of employment, shift, type of unit worked, most recent performance evaluation from work, and certificates of completion for continuing education.

Respondent's reply is a woefully inadequate response to the Board's investigation concerning her July 2014 arrest for Attempting to Elude Police. Respondent's submission raises more questions than it answers with the indication that she was also charged with DUI.

The Board reviewed Respondent's submissions and determined that further proceedings were not necessary and that no material discrepancies had been raised. The Board was not persuaded that the submitted materials merited further consideration, as Respondent did not dispute the findings of fact or conclusions of law. The Board determined that Respondent's minimal reply did not warrant modification of the Provisional Order.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 1st day of September, 2015,
ORDERED that:

1. Respondent's New Jersey nursing license is hereby suspended until further Board Order and until she has fully responded to the Board's inquiry and provided documentation, in the form of certificates of completion, of having completed a

minimum of thirty (30) contact hours of nursing continuing for each biennial renewal period from June 1, 2011 to the time of reinstatement.

2. A civil penalty in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500) is hereby imposed upon Respondent for the violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2 and 1.3, as well as a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) for the violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, for a total penalty amount of seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750). Payment shall be made by certified check, bank cashier check, or money order payable to "State of New Jersey," or by wire transfer, direct deposit, or credit card payment delivered or mailed to State Board of Nursing, Attention: Leslie Burgos, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Any other form of payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making the payment. Payment shall be made no later than twenty-one (21) days after the date of filing of this Final Order of Discipline. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

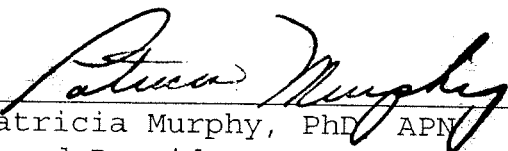
3. Respondent shall refrain from practicing as a nurse and shall not represent herself as a Licensed Practical Nurse until such time as her license is reinstated. Any practice in

this State prior to reinstatement shall constitute grounds for a charge of unlicensed practice.

4. The Board reserves the right to initiate further disciplinary proceedings at the time of Respondent's petition for reinstatement based upon Respondent's conviction, any information provided by Respondent, or upon any new information.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:


Patricia Murphy, PhD APN
Board President